

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 TRSE-00 AID-05 (ISO) W

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R 021216Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 6544

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LIBYA

REF: A. CAIRO 6377 B. CAIRO 6382

1. MAIN STORY IN JULY 2 AKHBAR REPORTS RESULTS OF GOE
"INTERROGATION" OF THREE LIBYANS WHO REQUESTED POLITICAL
ASYLUM IN EGYPT JUNE 26 (REF B). THEY HAVE ALLEGEDLY TOLD
EGYPTIANS OFFICIALS THAT LIBYAN PEOPLE REJECT QADHAFFI'S
ISOLATIONIST POLICY AND DENOUNCE HIS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN
AGAINST EGYPT AND SADAT. THEY SAY STUDENTS IN BENGHAZI
STAGED A "HUGE DEMONSTRATION TO SHOW THEIR DISCONTENT" AND
MAINTAIN THAT A POLITICAL PARTY HAS BEEN FORMED "TO OPPOSE
QADHAFFI'S POLICIES". LIBYAN PEOPLE ARE AGAINST "SPREADING
OF RUSSIAN BASES"; "CLASHES" HAVE ALLEGEDLY ALREADY OCCURED
BETWEEN LIBYANS AND SOVIET EXPERTS IN STREETS AND SUQS.
REPORTS ADD THAT THREE LIBYANS HAVE ALSO "REVEALED NEW
SECRET": QADHAFFI ARRESTED 29 OFFICERS BECAUSE THEY
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SENT HIM CABLE DENOUNCING ATTACK ON SADAT AND EGYPTIAN

PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, NINE EGYPTIAN ENGINEERS WERE
ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO ACT AS AGENTS AGAINST EGYPT.

2. AKHBAR CARRIES PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRIO AND LISTS THEM AS
HASHIM SAID DAUD (28), MUHAMMAD AHMAD GHADBAN (26)
AND ABMAD YUSSUF ABU AL-GASSIM. (COMMENT: AHRAM REPORTED
JUNE 28 THAT GOE HAS DECIDED TO RETURN THREE ASYLUM SEEKERS
TO LIBYA; JULY 2 PRESS MAKES NO COMMENT IN THIS PREVIOUS
REPORT.)

3. IN OTHER FRONT PAGE STORIES, ALL THREE LOCAL ARABIC
LANGUAGE DAILIES PICK UP RADIO COLOGNE REPORT, QUOTING CIA
SOURCES, THAT SOVIETS WILL GIVE LARG SIX SUBMARINES TO BE
MANNED BY 100 SOVIET-TRAINED LIBYAN NAVAL OFFICERS. ACCORDING
TO THESE REPORTS, THERE ARE NOW 300 SOVIET EXPERTS IN LIBYA AND
"CIA CIRCLES" ESTIMATE NUMBER WILL INCREASE TO 600 IN NEXT
FEW MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: GOE HAS OBVIOUSLY DECIDED TO CAPITALIZE PROPAGANDA-
WISE ON APPEARANCE OF THREE LIBYAN ASYLU SEEKERS. THEIR
"REVELATIONS" GIVE AN AURA OF CORROBORATION TO SERIES OF
RECENT ALLEGATIONS IN EGYPTIAN PRESS IN LATEST ROUND OF ANTI-
QADHAAFI MADIA CAMPAIGN. FORMATION OF ANTI-QADHAAFI POLITICAL
PARTY, FOR EXAMPLE, SOUNDS TO US MORE LIKE EGYPTIAN WISHFUL
THINKING THAN HARD FACT.
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